

CAPTAIN JOEL F. SCHMIDT



HOME STATE: ILLINIOS

MOS: 0302 INFANTRY OFFICER

COLLEGE: CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY

SCHOOLS: SCHOOL OF INFANTRY
INFANTRY SQUAD LDRS' COURSE
INFANTRY PLT SGTS' COURSE
ADVANCED MACHINE GUNNERS' COURSE
AIRBORNE COURSE
THE BASIC SCHOOL
INFANTRY OFFICERS' COURSE
EXPEDITIONARY WARFARE SCHOOL

MILITARY HISTORY:

Captain Joel F. Schmidt was born and raised in Robinson, Illinois. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1991. Upon completion of Boot Camp at MCRD San Diego, he reported to SOI where he graduated as an 0352. Upon graduation from SOI, he was assigned to Marine Barracks, 8th and I. In December of 1994, he reported to 6th Marine Regimental TOW Platoon. While assigned to the 6th Marines, he participated in six Combined Arms Exercises. In June of 1995, he reported to 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines where he served as a CAAT Platoon Section Leader and Platoon Sergeant during a Mediterranean deployment.

Captain Schmidt received his commission upon graduation from Officers' Candidate School in April 1997. Following OCS, he attended The Basic School and Infantry Officers' Course at Quantico, VA.

Upon graduation from Infantry Officers' Course, he was assigned to Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines where he served as Weapons Platoon Commander, Executive Officer, and Commanding Officer. During his tour with 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines, his company participated in a Combined Arms Exercise, an ACM Fly-Away, and a Mediterranean deployment.

In November 2000, Captain Schmidt was assigned to Marine Combat Training Battalion, School of Infantry, Training Command, Camp Lejeune for duty as Executive Officer for Company F. On May 11, 2001 to June 2002, Captain Schmidt became the Commanding Officer of Company H. On June 6, 2002 Captain Schmidt was assigned as the Operations Officer for Marine Combat Training Battalion until August of 2003. In August of 2003, Captain Schmidt attended Expeditionary Warfare School. Upon graduation from EWS in May 2004, Captain Schmidt was assigned as a training Company Platoon Commander for Co A, Officer Candidate School. In August of 2004 Captain Schmidt reported into 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marines.

Captain Schmidt holds a Bachelors of Science in History from Campbell University. His personal decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Gold Stars in lieu of forth award and the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal.



**SECOND LIEUTENANT
MICHAEL J. MULVANEY**

HOME STATE: RHODE ISLAND

MOS: 0302 INFANTRY OFFICER

COLLEGE: UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

SCHOOLS: THE BASIC SCHOOL
INFANTRY OFFICERS COURSE

MILITARY HISTORY:

2nd Lt. Mulvaney graduated from The Basic School in October of 2003. Following the Infantry Officers Course, 2nd Lt. Mulvaney was assigned to Company G, 2/2. There he served as weapons platoon commander for their deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom II. He is now serving in the billet of Company Executive Officer.

1st Platoon Company G Web Update



My name is SSgt Joe Caspole and I am the platoon commander for 1st Platoon, Company G. This being the first entry on the Company G website, I will begin by giving you a brief summary of 1st Platoon's activities since arriving in Iraq in July. To say the least, we have been very busy. Our days have been filled with the numerous tasks required to counter the enemy in the area, such as vehicle searches, both dismounted and motorized patrols, and securing the main roads in our zone. Additionally, we spend a lot of time conversing with the locals. Our meetings center on asking what problems they may be having in their towns and, of course, if they have any information they would like to share about insurgent activity in the area. Thus far, the majority of the people we have interacted with have been supportive of the Marines, and welcome us into their homes for a conversation over a glass of chai (Iraqi tea).

Your Marines of 1st Platoon have also recently assisted in writing history. You should all be proud of the Marines as they successfully secured the Iraqi Constitutional Referendum of 15 October in the greater Kharmah region. With a 60% voter turnout, the people in our area did their part in assuring the next step of democracy in Iraq. This would not have been possible without the security provided by the Marines. The workload post elections, however, has not let up. As a result, the amount of time and frequency of communications to home will be less than what we all have become accustomed to. Whenever I get a chance to use the internet, I will update this site and send out an e-mail to family and friends. If you would like to receive that correspondence or have any questions, just e-mail me at ssgtcaspole@yahoo.com and I will add you to my address book.

In closing for this update, the Marines of 1st Platoon appreciate, more than you will ever know, the support from home. The positive letters and care packages are like medicine for the Marines morale and level of motivation. So, thank you and keep em coming. Until next time.

-SSgt Joe Caspole

2D Platoon Company G Web Update

Hello to the family and friends of Second Platoon, Company G. As we near our three month mark in Iraq, we would like to provide all of you a little update into the day to day lives and the accomplishments of the Marines thus far. Your Marines and Sailors are operating in and around the city of Kharmah, the main population center in Second Battalion, Second Marines area of operations. The Marines have been extremely busy providing security and assistance to the people of the greater Kharmah area as well as doing their best to root out the insurgent activity that continues to operate in Iraq.

The most recent accomplishment has also been the Marines greatest, as they insured a safe and successful constitutional referendum election on 15 October. In other news, we would like to congratulate the promotion of Staff Sergeant Hindon who was promoted to that rank on 2 October. The day was bittersweet, as he was moved to 1st Platoon, and we are sure he will provide the Marines there the same sturdy leadership he gave to 2D Platoon since arriving in January.

The pace of operations has been furious and will continue to be as the Marines of 2D Platoon, Company G continue to press for the stabilization and freedom to the people of Iraq. I will do my best to ensure updates and pictures are added to the website as soon as the operational tempo allows. We thank all of the wives, family and friends for the continued support you provide.

2D Lieutenant Andrew Ives, 2D Platoon Commander, Company G

3rd Platoon Company G Web Update

Hello family and friends of 3rd Platoon. We are nearing the three month mark of our deployment to Iraq, with about four months left to go. We have recently received quite a few promotions in third, which has been a mixed blessing. Privates First Class Csira, Griffith, Mam, Marx, Mullins, Taylor, and Wilhelm, were all promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal on 1 October. Also, Sergeant Bujno was promoted to Staff Sergeant and Staff Sergeant Harris promoted to the rank of Gunnery Sergeant. Unfortunately, due to their promotions, Staff Sergeant Bujno and Gunnery Sergeant Harris were moved to Weapons Platoon where they can serve in rank appropriate billets. However, we received Staff Sergeant Steiner as our new Platoon Sergeant. He comes to us from Weapons Platoon and last served guarding the President at Camp David prior to joining 2/2.

Third Platoon has been doing very well getting to know the locals throughout our area of operations. The platoon has been particularly complemented on their efforts to learn the culture and show respect to the local population. The beginning of Ramadan, the Muslim month long holiday has shown us some significant changes in day to day life here in Iraq. The locals fast from sunup to sundown, which has decreased the number of chai (middle eastern tea) visits we have had with the locals. October 15 brought the Constitutional Referendum Elections which you can be proud to say that your Marines assured a peaceful election process in our area of operations.

The platoon recently received ballcaps from an organization in upstate New York called 'Hats from Home,' whose mission is to provide deployed soldiers and Marines with a piece of home while overseas. It collects and sends donated hats from a variety of companies, organizations, and teams. The platoon was thrilled to receive the hats which as LCpl Park said had "a unique one for each person's personality."

We appreciate the support from all of you at home and look forward to seeing you when we complete our mission here. "Go Bengals"-LCpl Westfall.

2nd Lt Jonathan C. Welch, 3rd Platoon Commander, Company G

4th Platoon Company G Web Update

This is the first entry I have made to the Raider Journal and I'll start by introducing myself. I am 1st Lt. John Pettinelli, weapons platoon commander. I cannot begin to say how proud and honored I am to lead the Marines of Weapons platoon. You all should be proud of the work that your sons', husbands', and brothers' have done here in Iraq. As the half-way point of the deployment comes up, I would like to give you an update into the accomplishments of the Marines. Your Marines and Sailors are operating in and around the city of Kharmah, the main population center in Second Battalion, Second Marines area of operations. The Marines have been extremely busy giving the citizens of Iraq a stable environment for this brand new democracy. We have been successful. This young democracy moved ahead light years with the election approving Iraq's new constitution. The day of the election, October 15, went as smooth as planned due to the Marines providing the safe atmosphere that was required for this mission.

One word describes your Marines of Weapons platoon, RESILIENT. The Marines have experienced a lot of changes and have taken each one head on, adapting and overcoming at each turn. The platoon welcomed newly promoted Gunnery Sergeant Harris and Staff Sergeant Bujno to the platoon at the beginning of October, both will contribute to the success of the platoon. The platoon unfortunately had to bid farewell to Staff Sergeant Steiner who will be missed.

Unfortunately four of our fellow brothers from weapons platoon have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Corporal Cherava, Lance Corporal Kenny, Lance Corporal Frye, and Private First Class Cabino were all killed in a road side bomb on October 6th. The thoughts and prayers of the Marines of Company G are with the family and friends of those Heroes. Five members of the platoon have been safely returned to the United States, Corporal Klepper, Lance Corporals O'Grady, Lewis, Huben, and Private First Class Herbert, where they will fully recover from wounds received during combat operations. Wish them all a swift and full recovery.

The furious pace of operations here will continue and the Marines of Weapons Platoon will adapt and overcome, safeguarding the freedom of the people of this new democracy.

I have a saying that I tell the Marines all the time; Friends by chance, BROTHERS by fate. I believe that something brought this group of men together and that they are able to overcome anything thrown in their way.

We thank all of the wives, family and friends for the continued support you provide.







